

**BURIEN BUSINESS AND**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (BEDP)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** November 21, 2008

**Time:** 7-8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Harvey Aulgur, Rick Cosgrave, David Elliott, Geri Fain, Kevin Fitz, Michael Goldsmith, Jim Hughes, Alice Madsen, Mark Minium, Doug Moreland, Jane Voget

**Excused Absentees:** Bob Ewing, Karen Lautermilch, Nancy Damon

**Staff:** Mike Martin, City Manager; Dick Loman, Economic Development Manager

**Guests:** Mayor McGilton; Councilmember Kathy Keene; Marco Milanese, Port of Seattle; Dan House, Tin Room owner & guest speaker; Patty Sader, Executive Director, Discover Burien

**Call to Order:** Meeting opened at 7:05 a.m. by Michael Goldsmith, Chair

**Minutes:** The Minutes from October 10, 2008 were approved as written.

**Chair Report** – Michael “passed” to City Manager.

**City Manager Report**

Mike mentioned that a good deal of his time since the last meeting had been spent working with Councilmembers Constantine and Patterson at King County to support no cuts in TOD County personnel. Mayor McGilton also sent a letter in support of the TOD program, as did other cities planning TOD projects. Time was also spent with the Port, SeaTac and State Department of Transportation on furthering our joint proposal to complete the “diamond” interchange at 518 and Des Moines Memorial Drive.

**Economic Manager’s Report**

Dick reported that the Burien Wellness Cluster had just marked its first year of monthly meetings as a group. An update to Council was included in today’s packet to the BEDP. Next year’s Cluster action program will concentrate on workforce development – both promotion and improved educational opportunities in Burien.

**Discover Burien**

Executive Director Patty Sader reminded everyone that the annual “Winterfest” festival is scheduled for December 6. She also mentioned that the events coordinator position is subject next year to a competitive Request for Proposals, which is presently being advertised.

**Guest Speaker**

Dan House, long time Burien businessman, and owner of, among other things, the “Tin Room” was the speaker today. Dan observed how over the years, especially the last five years, Burien’s demographics and business clients are changing to a younger group of individuals. Dan’s vision of Old Burien is that it becomes branded as an “entertainment center.” Parking is already an issue for the successful downtown businesses, especially in Old Burien and needs to be

addressed by the City as well as the merchants who are affected. A general discussion about parking solutions followed.

Dan also went on to say that his observation is lots of young people, many from West Seattle are here “checking us out.” We need to find something to keep them here on Saturday night. Despite the poor economy, many potential new businesses talk to him about Burien and the opportunities here. Parking always comes up in these conversations. The 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Tin Room is Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and an all day celebration is planned.

### **Round the Table**

- Mark Minium announced that Burien Honda is the first auto dealer to use a water-based car paint in their body shop which is environmentally friendly and a step in becoming a “green” car company. A traditional “clear coat” is sprayed on over the water based paint.
- Rick Cosgrave thought we should focus on our downtown crossing intersections and not mix cars and pedestrians at the same crossing.
- There was an in-depth discussion about our public school system. Geri Fain pointed out that a quality education is definitely available in Burien, despite an influx of displaced persons, many direct from refugee camps around the world and badly needing basic education skills. Some have never been to school before. A promotional brochure for the Highline School District was among the things discussed to possibly project a strong positive message about the District’s educational achievements.
- Michael Goldsmith commented that diversity is an asset. Young people want the diversity and we need to work harder to develop this resource.
- Doug Moreland mentioned that a lot of people are looking at Burien and asked whether we can continue our renewal. There followed a general discussion concerning continuation of our downtown urban redevelopment by improving 153<sup>rd</sup> Street. Even the introduction of street trees would improve curb appeal.
- Dan House suggested that we make it easy to open a business in Burien. Perhaps there should be a “permit development center” with knowledgeable mentors ready to help. This could be a private sector initiative.
- Doug Moreland: Business retention concerning auto dealers is an important community asset. Could there be B&O tax relief during this difficult period?
- Mark Minium: Visioning is fine, but we should be focusing on today and the worsening business climate. Car dealers and other retailers are suffering.

**Next meeting: December 5, 2008, Study Session, 7 AM, Interim City Hall**